



# Youth Writing Contest



## What I hope Blackwater Refuge will be like in 100 years

In 2003 the National Wildlife Refuge System will be celebrating 100 years of service, and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. One of the ways in which Blackwater NWR and the Friends of Blackwater are commemorating these important milestones is with a Centennial **time capsule**, which will be sealed on March 14, 2003 (the Refuge System's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday), and will not be opened until March 14, 2103. **The Friends of Blackwater are looking for a few young writers, 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and they need your help!**

**Your words could become part of history!** What are your hopes for Blackwater NWR 100 years from now? Submit your ideas in a one page typed essay, and your work may be chosen to be included in the time capsule, along with other Refuge memorabilia. Your essay may be read by people 100 years in the future! Each winner will receive a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond!

President Theodore Roosevelt began the Refuge System in 1903 when he set aside the 5-acre Pelican Island in Florida as a bird sanctuary. Since then, the System has grown to include over 540 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas, encompassing over 100 million acres of protected land. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge became a part of the Refuge System in 1933, designated as an area to protect migratory birds. Today, Blackwater's 27,000 acres serve as not only a haven for thousands of migratory ducks and geese, but also a home for threatened and endangered species, including one of the largest nesting populations of bald eagles on the East Coast.

Just think! Your words have the potential to inspire future generations, and carry the Refuge System's conservation legacy well into the next century. **Submit your essay along with the entry form by December 31, 2002.** Feel free to call 410-228-2677 or email [fw5rw\\_bwnwr@fws.gov](mailto:fw5rw_bwnwr@fws.gov) if you have any questions.

Cut and return with essay.

### Blackwater NWR / Friends of Blackwater Centennial Youth Writing Contest Entry Form

Please complete and sign release next page.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of your work: \_\_\_\_\_

## Blackwater NWR / Friends of Blackwater Centennial Youth Writing Contest Rules

### Who may enter:

All young people Grades 6 through 12. Entries do not need to be part of a classroom assignment.

### How you enter:

Students and their parents must complete and sign the entry/release form at the bottom of the page and include it with each work. Place the entry/release form and the essay in an envelope. Entries can be dropped off at the Blackwater NWR Refuge Visitor Center (Weekdays 8am-4pm, Weekends 9am-5pm) or the Refuge Headquarters office (Weekdays 8am-4pm), or can be mailed to: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Centennial Writing Contest, 2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613

### Essay Theme and Guidelines:

- # The theme of this essay is **What I hope Blackwater Refuge will be like in 2103.** Students are asked to envision Blackwater Refuge 100 years in the future, and to put their vision into a short essay describing their hopes for the wildlife and landscape of the Refuge, and its relationship with the people who visit and manage it. A basic knowledge of the present status and management of the Refuge is a great starting point.
- # Entries must be no more than one single-sided typed page.
- # **Limit one entry per person.**

### Judging:

A panel consisting of Blackwater NWR staff and members of the Friends of Blackwater will judge contest entries. Submissions will be rated on appropriateness to theme, clear and concise conveyance of ideas, grammar, and spelling. One winner will be chosen from each grade level.

### Deadline: December 31, 2002

All entries must be received by the deadline date. Contest winners will be notified by phone or mail. The contest winners will be invited to attend the sealing of the Blackwater time capsule on March 14, 2003, and the winning essays will be displayed at the Blackwater NWR Visitor Center during the Eagle Festival on March 15, 2003. All winners will receive a prize from the Friends of Blackwater.

### Additional Information:

Call Maggie Briggs or Tom Miller at the Blackwater Visitor Center: 410-228-2677

Cut and return with essay.

<b><i>Blackwater NWR/Friends of Blackwater Centennial Writing Contest Release Agreement</i></b> The entrant grants permission to the Friends of Blackwater and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use his/her written submission in promotion of the Centennial celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This includes, but is not limited to, the inclusion of said submission in the Blackwater NWR Centennial time capsule, and all related publicity in print and electronic media.			
Name:		Phone:	
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Email:
Signature of parent or guardian:			
Signature of entrant:			